

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The main street in Irkutsk is Prospekt Karla Marksa. It was formerly named Bolshaya Ulitsa. It begins on the embankment (naberezhnaya) of the Angara River and stretches across the town west to east to the Ushakovka River. This street is one of the few in Irkutsk with a macadamized surface; all the other streets still have the traditional bul'zhnik (large round cobble stone). Sad Parizhskoy Kommuny, a municipal park with a small fun fair, cafes, and a dancing platform, is situated on the embankment at the point where Prospekt Karla Marksa begins.
2. The landing pier just north of the municipal park is for ferries which ply across the Angara River. The river ferry crosses at this point, keeping well south of the islands lying in the river, and calls at a landing pier south of the main railroad station on the other side of the river.
3. As one proceeds along Prospekt Karla Marksa west to east, the first building on the right is the theater (Dramaticheskii Teatr), an old stone building probably built before the Revolution. This is the main theater in town and all the best productions are staged here. There is a small garden in this area which is possibly

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named Teatralniy Sad. A little farther on, at a corner on the same side of the street, there is a gastronom which occupies the entire ground floor of a four-story building. Some of the upper floors were at the time occupied by the headquarters of the OKR (SMERSH) of the Eastern Siberian Military District, according to an outside sign. There is a movie theater on the right side of the street. It is housed in a three-story, plastered brick building, which is in a very dilapidated state of repair. Another movie theater is located in an old two-story house on the left side of the street just opposite the above-mentioned movie theater. This movie is not as good as the one on the right side of the street. The Komendatura for the town is located on the right side of this main street at approximately its midpoint. This is a fairly well looked after plastered brick building, which also contains the Military Guard Room for the town. The commanding officer at the time was Captain Ponomorenko, a very unpopular officer with the local troops. A restaurant called the "Angara" is on the left side of the street, east and not far from the Komendatura. This appears to be the best restaurant in town and the building is in a good state of repair. A third movie theater is located in a two-story house also on the left side of the street. This is the best movie theater in Irkutsk. Zavod imeni Kuybysheva, a machine construction plant, is a large factory just west of the bridge over the Ushakovka River on the left side of the street. This factory covers a large area and is surrounded by a two-meter-high brick wall. Only one large building, which has two stories, can be seen from the outside wall.

4. On the street going south off Prospekt Karla Marksa at the corner where the gastronom is situated, there is another theater, called the Teatr Yunogo Zritelya, where plays for the younger members of the population are produced. This theater seats approximately 500 persons.
5. The square north of Prospekt Karla Marksa is no longer called Ploshchad Tretogo Internatsionala. The Oblispolkom, a mining educational institute, and the town library are located here. 25X1
6. It was said that there is an airfield on the other side of the Ushakov River in the northeastern part of the town's suburbs. there is a fairly large mica plant (slyudinaya fabrika) somewhere in Irkutsk. 25X1
7. The main prison is located in the Ushakovskaya Storona, in the same prison building which was used before the Revolution.
8. The main railroad station in Irkutsk is located on the western side of the Angara River and is known as Irkutsk Pervyy. It is a large stone building kept in a good state of repair. There are two passenger platforms with two tracks each and another platform with a single track used mainly as a troop loading ramp. The following express trains were handled by this station:

Moscow - Irkutsk
 Moscow - Chita (N 52-03, E 113-30)
 Moscow - Khabarovsk (N 48-30, E 135-06)
 Moscow - Vladivostok (N 43-08, E 131-54)

There were also the following local trains (prigorodniye):

Irkutsk - Krasnoyarsk (N 56-02, E 92-48)
 Irkutsk - Kansk (N 45-59, E 133-59)
 Irkutsk - Chita

There is another railroad station in Irkutsk which is called Irkutsk Vtoroy and is located approximately seven kilometers north of Irkutsk Pervyy. This is a freight station serving a factory area, and it handles no passenger traffic.

9. On the whole, the Irkutsk area enjoys a healthful climate. The winters begin about October and the first snow usually falls on about the Day of the October Revolution (7 November). Winter temperatures are approximately minus 57° C. Warmer weather comes in April but the temperature is never higher than 30° C in summer. There is much snow in winter. Rainfall is light, and it comes mainly in fall.

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10. The area around Irkutsk is composed entirely of vast Siberian forests (tayga) intermingled with rivers and lakes. There are three rivers in Irkutsk itself, the Angara, the Irkut, and the Ushakovka; all freeze in winter. The Angara is a very fast-flowing river, and because of this does not freeze until the end of November or the beginning of December. For the same reason it frees itself of ice as early as the beginning or middle of March. Even in mid-summer the water remains ice cold and is never used for bathing by the local inhabitants, who bathe in the Irkut and Ushakovka instead. These two rivers are slow-flowing.
11. The local population suffers from scurvy (tsynga) caused by the lack of certain vitamins. There are also some cases of malignant anthrax (sobirskaya yazva).
12. In 1946, the Irkutsk local authorities began to lay the track of the first streetcar line in the town. It was to run from the main railroad station through the town to the Voyennyy Gorodok, where a streetcar depot was to be built. The track was laid in a very slipshod way, and everything was speeded up to have this line completed by 7 November 1946. On the Day of the October Revolution the line was officially opened by the local Communist leaders, and the first streetcar began its journey from the railroad station to the Voyennyy Gorodok. It proceeded on its route, watched by an admiring population, until it reached the middle of the town, where it broke down. The streetcar was then towed away by a truck. In 1947, the people were still waiting for their streetcar system.
13. Open cast coal mines are located at Cherimkhovo, approximately 120 kilometers from Irkutsk. In 1945 - 1946 coal was brought from these mines and used at the barracks complex at Irkutsk.

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